

**King County Mobility Coalition
Technology Subcommittee**

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 22, 2010, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Yesler Building, 400 Yesler Way, Seattle

In attendance: Melony Joyce, Ref Lindmark, Michelle Zeidman.

Expanding Technology Tools for People with Special Transportation Needs:

The subcommittee discussed applications and technology tools for special needs transportation, including:

- Creating a strategy for stimulating application developers to create tools for special needs transportation.
- Encouraging the development of voice recognition and audio options for web applications, including enhancements to existing products/tools.
- Identifying concerns for special needs populations with regard to OneBusAway and then meeting with Brian (at OneBusAway) about how to make this tool available to more people (including people with special transportation needs).
- The subcommittee's goal would be to stimulate a third party to develop these tools.
- The subcommittee expressed interest in knowing how large the special needs population is and how technology tools that benefit this population also might benefit the general population. This information could be used as a selling point when pitching ideas to private developers.

Potential Fall Event:

- The subcommittee also considered convening a gathering of people with disabilities in the fall to discuss:
 - What technology tools currently exist?
 - How are these tools being used by people with disabilities?
 - What types of technology innovations are on the horizon?
- Invitees to this gathering might include the Washington State Office on Disability (which offers transit instruction and participates in Tricia Barbachan's transit instruction networking group), Lighthouse for the Blind, academics (such as people from the University of Washington), and occupational therapists from Harborview.
- The subcommittee also discussed researching whether the Washington State Office on Disability maintains a directory of organizations that provide technology to people with disabilities and using this as a jumping off point for understanding what technology exists and who the stakeholders are with regard to technology for people with disabilities, and for recruiting people to participate in the above-defined gathering.

Rideshareonline.com demonstration project for social networks

- ☐ Action Item: Melony will follow-up with Ann Bruskland at Metro regarding the next steps for the demonstration project.

- We will try to host 2-3 pilot projects simultaneously with different types of groups, such as a senior center and food bank.

Expanding grants to including technology tools

- Action Item: Ref will draft a one-paragraph summary of the subcommittee's work and give an update at the May KCMC meeting. and will share the idea for technology to be included in grant applications for the next grant cycle. His main points may include:
 - The Coordinated Plan supports the use of technology and the next FTA grant cycle is fast approaching; the Technology Subcommittee can be a resource for agencies wanting to add a technology component to their grant proposal.
 - The new RideShareOnline.com will have the capability to be used by senior centers, food banks and other groups for ridesharing and small-scale transportation scheduling. We are planning to do one or more pilot projects in the fall to test this new feature.
 - The subcommittee is exploring technologies used in transit and how these tools can be used by special needs populations, including how Metro is starting to publicize these tools via the transit applications page on its website.

Other Items:

- Melony noted that the recent issue of the *Transportation Intelligence* newsletter had a link to a great video of people with visual impairments being trained to use new MTA features.
- The subcommittee noted the need to change the way KCMC member organizations think with regard to who has access to technology. We used to think that special needs populations (particularly older adults) did not have access to technology, but new users are increasingly older adults who are using technology to connect with their past.

Next Steps:

- The subcommittee will reconvene in July.